

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
FULTON COUNTY
CLERK**

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2003**



**CRIT LUALLEN
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE FULTON COUNTY CLERK

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2003**

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the Fulton County Clerk's audit for the year ended December 31, 2003. We have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

Financial Condition:

Excess fees decreased by \$1,590 from the prior year, resulting in excess fees of \$923 as of December 31, 2003. Revenues increased by \$16,540 from the prior year and expenditures increased by \$18,130.

Deposits:

The Clerk's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities.

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C R I T L U A L L E N
A U D I T O R O F P U B L I C A C C O U N T S

The Honorable Harold Garrison, Fulton County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Lesia LaRue, Fulton County Clerk
Members of the Fulton County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the County Clerk of Fulton County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2003. This financial statement is the responsibility of the County Clerk. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the County Clerk's office prepares the financial statement on a regulatory basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees of the County Clerk of Fulton County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2003, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated June 9, 2004, on our consideration of the County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.



The Honorable Harold Garrison, Fulton County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Lesia LaRue, Fulton County Clerk
Members of the Fulton County Fiscal Court

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the County Clerk and Fiscal Court of Fulton County, Kentucky and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

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Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
June 9, 2004

FULTON COUNTY
 LESIA LARUE, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2003

Revenues

State Fees For Services \$ 3,617

Fiscal Court 11,066

Licenses and Taxes:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers \$ 140,142

Usage Tax 465,973

Tangible Personal Property Tax 421,846

Licenses-

Fish and Game 5,632

Marriage 4,174

Occupational 817

Deed Transfer Tax 9,304

Delinquent Tax 70,737 1,118,625

Fees Collected for Services:

Recordings-

Deeds, Easements, and Contracts \$ 6,493

Real Estate Mortgages 9,957

Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements 23,129

All Other Recordings 7,962 47,541

Other:

Miscellaneous 2,437

Interest Earned 341

Total Revenues \$ 1,183,627

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

FULTON COUNTY
 LESIA LARUE, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2003
 (Continued)

Expenditures

Payments to State:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers	\$	112,106	
Usage Tax		451,994	
Tangible Personal Property Tax		127,658	
Licenses, Taxes, and Fees-			
Fish and Game		5,507	
Delinquent Tax		7,586	
Legal Process Tax		6,987	\$ 711,838

Payments to Fiscal Court:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	\$	34,715	
Delinquent Tax		8,730	
Deed Transfer Tax		8,839	
Occupational Licenses		430	52,714

Payments to Other Districts:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	\$	242,872	
Delinquent Tax		35,376	278,248

Payments to Sheriff 1,390

Payments to County Attorney 10,659

Operating Expenditures:

Personnel Services-

Deputies' Salaries	\$	47,827	
Employee Benefits-			
Training Incentive		2,277	50,104

Contracted Services-

Advertising	\$	123	
Printing and Binding		1,165	
Maintenance Agreement		2,863	4,151

Materials and Supplies-

Office Supplies	\$	2,891	
Phone		858	3,749

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

FULTON COUNTY
 LESIA LARUE, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2003
 (Continued)

Expenditures (Continued)

Operating Expenditures (Continued)

Other Charges-			
Conventions and Travel	\$	2,043	
Postage		2,222	
Refunds		2,083	
Miscellaneous		<u>704</u>	\$ <u>7,052</u>
Total Expenditures			<u>\$ 1,119,905</u>
Net Revenues			\$ 63,722
Less: Statutory Maximum	\$	59,199	
Expense Allowance		<u>3,600</u>	<u>62,799</u>
Excess Fees Due County for 2003			\$ 923
Payment to County Treasurer - March 16, 2004			<u>876</u>
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit			<u><u>\$ 47</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

FULTON COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2003

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of receipts over disbursements to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 64.820 directs the fiscal court to collect any amount, including excess fees, due from the County Clerk as determined by the audit. KRS 64.152 requires the County Clerk to settle excess fees with the fiscal court by March 15 each year.

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under this regulatory basis of accounting, revenues and expenditures are generally recognized when cash is received or disbursed with the exception of accrual of the following items (not all-inclusive), at December 31, that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest Receivable
- Collection On Accounts Due From Others For 2003 Services
- Reimbursements For 2003 Activities
- Payments Due Other Governmental Entities For December Tax And Fee Collections And Payroll
- Payments Due Vendors For Goods Or Services Provided In 2003

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the County Clerk's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

FULTON COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2003
(Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System

The county officials and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a multiple-employer public retirement system that covers all eligible full-time employees. Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute. Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5.0 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 6.34 percent for the first six months and 7.34 percent for the last six months of the year.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65.

Historical trend information pertaining to CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report which is a matter of public record.

Note 3. Deposits

The County Clerk maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to KRS 64.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the County Clerk and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution. These requirements were met, and as of December 31, 2003, the County Clerk's deposits were fully insured or collateralized at a 100% level with collateral of pledged securities held by the County Clerk's agent in the County Clerk's name.

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REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Harold Garrison, Fulton County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Lesia LaRue, Fulton County Clerk
Members of the Fulton County Fiscal Court

Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the Fulton County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated June 9, 2004. This was a special report on the County Clerk's financial statement prepared in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Fulton County Clerk's financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2003, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Fulton County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.



Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

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Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
June 9, 2004

